

News **from Rep. Stephanie Herseth Sandlin**

For Immediate Release

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HERSETH SANDLIN INTRODUCES VETERANS EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT

Legislation *Provides Common-Sense Improvements and Updates to Montgomery*

April 3rd, 2008, Washington, DC- This week, U.S. Rep. Ste

Herseth Sandlin said, “The World War II Montgomery GI Bill was one of the most i

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Herseth Sandlin introduced the bipartisan Veterans Education Improvement Act as

The Congressional Research Service (CRS) reports that the current education ben

Substantially	increases the amount of basic education assistance for veterans
Provides veterans	with a monthly cost of living stipend
Allows the overall	assistance to be used for both business courses and licen
Dramatically	expands the opportunity for servicemembers to enroll for the be
Modifies upward	the rate of reimbursement for State Approving Agencies, an

Extends the time limitation for use of education benefits from 10 years to 15

“Those serving in our armed forces deserve to be protected as best we know how

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Congresswoman

Stephanie Herseth Sandlin serves South Dakota in the U.S. House of Representatives

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SECTION BY SECTION SUMMARY OF H.R. 5684

Section 1: Title: The Veterans Education Improvement Act of 2008.

Section 2: Increase Amount of Basic Education Assistance.

Increase the amount of basic educational assistance for individuals whose o

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Increase the amount of basic educational assistance for individuals whose o

Section 3: Extension of time limitation for use of eligibility and entitlement

Extension of time limitation: entitlement expires at the end of the 15-year per

Section 4: Monthly Stipend for recipients of educational assistance allowanc

Above half-time basis will receive a monthly stipend of \$500.

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Less than a half-time basis will receive a monthly stipend of \$250.

Section 5: Extension of period for collection of \$1,200 fee for basic education

Basic pay for	an individual who is member of an active duty component shall
Basic pay for	an individual who is member of the Selected Reserve shall be

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Section 6: Use of educational assistance for business courses and seminars

Basic educational assistance will also include business courses, seminars a
Survivors' and dependents' educational assistance: basic educational assist

Section 7: Use of educational assistance for courses taken to prepare for licens

Basic educational assistance will also include preparatory courses for licens

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Survivors' and dependents' educational assistance: basic educational assistance

Section 8: Use of education assistance to repay federal student loans.

§ 3020B. Use of educational assistance benefits for the repayment of Federal student loans.
Use of benefits: Individuals entitled to educational assistance may apply educational assistance to the repayment of Federal student loans.
Limitation on payments: the amount of an individual's entitlement to educational assistance.

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Section 9: Opportunity to withdraw election not to enroll in educational assistance program.

Opportunity to enroll may be made at any time while the individual is on active duty.
Reduction in basic pay withdrawing election shall be reduced by \$1,200; or if the individual is a member of the National Guard or Reserve, the reduction shall be \$600.

Section 10: Montgomery GI Bill benefits not to reduce financial aid.

Veterans' education benefits shall not be considered as income when applying for financial aid.

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Section 11: Extension of increase in benefit for certain individuals pursuing

Survivors and
Members of the
Certain other

dependents extension increase to January 1, 2014.
Selected Reserve, Veterans Earn and Learn Act of 2004 ex
individuals, Veterans Earn and Learn Act of 2004 extension inc

Section 12: Modification of rate of reimbursement of State and local agencies

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State Approving Agencies will be permanently funded at \$19 million a year.

Section 13: Provision of educational assistance benefits for veterans discha

Active duty service: Educational assistance benefits for veterans shall apply
Members of the Selected Reserve: Educational assistance benefits for veter

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Section 14: Increase in amount of reporting fee payable to educational institution.

Reporting fee	shall increase from \$7 to \$21.
Reporting fee	shall increase from \$11 to \$21 for eligible veterans and eligible

Section 15: Provision of additional areas of work-study for veterans.

Allows for a placement of work-study programs for full time and half-time students.

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Section 16: 5-year pilot program for on-campus work-study positions.

The Secretary	of Veterans Affairs will conduct a 5-year pilot program to expand
Type of work-study	positions include: positions in academic departments or
The Secretary	shall set up the regulation for proper implementation of pilot program
Authorization	of appropriations: \$10,000,000 for each fiscal year, 2009 through 2013

Section 17: Increase in employees for education service.

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The VA Education Service shall increase the number of full time employees

Section 18: Upgrade of certain information technology.

The General Information office with advice from the Director of Education shall
Each year the committee will be updated on the progress completed by the C
VA Education IT system will be appropriated \$8 million for FY 2009 and \$3 million

Section 19: Modification of advance payment of initial education assistance

"Advance pay" shall be charged against the final months of the entitlement.

The amount advanced is reduced from the overall benefits.